



The People of Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
gather virtually for the

Worship of God

May 2, 2021, 9:30am: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Chiming the Hour

Mr. Evan Collins

Greeting

Rev. Nathan A. Russell

The Spirit of the Risen Christ is with you!
And also with you!

Call to Worship

Rev. Russell

Lift up your hearts...
We lift them to the Lord!

Prelude

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

Mr. Collins

Meditation for Preparation

"Prune the ill branches so that a tree grows. Prune the dilapidated buildings so that a city flourishes."

--Khang Kijarro Nguyen

Hymn of Praise 129

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

TRURO

Invocation

Ms. Mary Siwierka

Hymn of Prayer 497

In Loving Partnership

PARTNERSHIP

Prayers of the People

God, our Partner...
Help us your future to proclaim.

The Lord's Prayer

All

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

Congregational Response 312

Amen

AMEN

Offering of Ourselves, Our Tithes, and Our Gifts

Rev. Russell

Our regular tithes and offerings support the budgeted ministries of WACC.

Offertory

Abide With Me

Mr. Collins

Doxology

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

MARION

**Praise God who rules all worlds; the risen Christ adore.
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God forevermore!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

The Reading	John 15:1-8	Rev. Russell
	For the Word of God in its promise and covenant...	
	Thanks be to God.	

Sermon	<i>Abiding in the Vine</i>	Rev. Russell
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Discipline of Silence

"Laurel had watched him prune. Holding the shears in both hands, he performed a sort of weighty sarabande, with a lop for this side, then a lop for the other side, as though he were bowing to his partner, and left the bush looking like a puzzle."

--Eudora Welty, *The Optimist's Daughter*

Hymn of Communion 395	<i>Seed, Scattered and Sown</i>	SEED SCATTERED
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Invitation to Commune		Rev. Russell
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Elder's Prayer		Mr. Nancy Walker
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Words of Institution		Rev. Russell
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Hymn of Discipleship 713	<i>God of Our Life</i>	SANDON
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Benediction and Charge		Rev. Russell
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Postlude	<i>Allemande</i>	Mr. Collins
	And all the people said...	
	AMEN!	

We Go to Love and Serve from Our Doorsteps to the Ends of the Earth

Today's artwork is a photograph of a kiwi vine stretching upward toward the sky. The branches are able to grow because they are connected to the main vine. The main vine is rooted in the ground that gives it nutrients and vitamins. The branches are also stretching toward the sun, which also gives nutrients and vitamins.

It would seem that this photograph would be the perfect metaphor for our text. God, the creator, is the sky. God is also the natural vine grower. From the sky come sunshine and rain; these give nutrients to the ground which makes the vine strong. The main vine is our connection to the nourishment from the ground, and in turn the sunshine and rain. Jesus the "true vine" is connection to the creator. Without this connection, it is difficult to thrive let alone survive. A constant connection to the vine provides nourishment to be productive in building God's kingdom. God give sunshine, rain, and prunes the plant; the ground gives nourishment to the vine, the vine causes the branches to bear fruit, and this glorifies God.

Questions to reflect on pertain to whether or not we are the branches still attached to Christ bearing fruit. Or are we branches that have lost connection and bear no fruit? How can we regain connection? How do we stretch toward God and remain deeply rooted in Christ? -- Olusola Tribble

OTHER EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today, 5/2: 9:30am - Energetic, Liturgical Worship*
Mon., 5/3: 7pm - *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* premiere**
Tue., 5/4: 7:45am - Devotional gathering for *The Upper Room* (Zoom)***
Thu., 5/6: 10am - All-Church Social Hour (on Zoom)****

*All Sunday and Wednesday worship services premiere at their respective times on our website and YouTube channel (see waccelyria.org/online). Past services are available on our website and [YouTube channel](http://waccelyria.org/youtube).

***Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* premieres online at: waccelyria.org/childrenscorner. Past episodes are available on our [YouTube channel](http://waccelyria.org/youtube).

***First-timers will want to register at waccelyria.org for these online, weekly devotional gatherings.

****Contact the church office for the log-in information for this bi-weekly, online chat.

Prayer requests may be submitted by contacting the church office or online at: waccelyria.org/pray

Contributions may be submitted to the church office or online at: waccelyria.org/give

